

TRU CF26 FAQs

TRU Community Fund 2026 (CF26)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the Transpennine Route Upgrade?

The Transpennine Route Upgrade, or TRU, is a transformative, multi-billion pound railway programme that will better connect passengers in the North between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds and York.

TRU will transform the Transpennine main line into a high-performing, reliable railway, bringing more frequent, more reliable, faster, greener trains. The size of the project does mean that there will be planned disruption to services so the work can be delivered, however, we are still very much committed to keeping passengers moving on a train as often as possible, in comfort and on time.

What is the TRU Community Fund?

The TRU Community Fund is a pot of funding that was established in 2024 by the [Transpennine Route Upgrade \(TRU\)](#) to give back to local communities while it undertakes major railway upgrades across the 70-mile stretch between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds and York.

The TRU Community Fund 2026 represents the third annual fund, **providing grants to schools, charities and community groups** to support projects that deliver strategically aligned outcomes across the route. Further information on the TRU Community Fund can be found at [The TRU Community Fund | Neighbourly](#).

So far, £405,000 has been provided in grants to 62 projects along the TRU Route, with an additional £270,000 available in 2026.

How much funding is available in TRU Community Fund 2026?

This year (2026-27), **a total of £270,000** is available in **grants of £5,000**, with the possibility to apply for an **uplift of £5,000**, which would give a total grant size of £10,000.

TRU CF26 grant sizes have been simplified and differ from previous years; this is due to historically low demand in low grant sizes and greater vetting for large grant sizes.

How can an organisation apply for the uplift of an additional £5,000?

During the application process, **all organisations will have the opportunity to apply for the additional £5,000 uplift**. Applicants will be asked to explain how the additional funding would:

- fund an extended phase of the project, or
- allow the project to be completed in its entirety.

Applications for the uplift will be assessed alongside the main grant application and against the outcomes of the applicant's proposed project. The decision to award the additional £5,000 will be based on the value it would add to the project, including any additional benefits it would deliver, such as faster or more efficient delivery, increased impact, or supporting a greater number of beneficiaries.

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How many grants are available?

Up to 54 grants are available, depending on the number of applications received and the specific grants applied for.

What are the grants for / what projects are eligible?

The funding will be granted to successful applications that **'Create or enhance indoor or outdoor community-focused facilities.'**

To align with TRU and UK Government objectives, projects must support job creation and employment. This could be through education, creating job skills, tackling youth unemployment or enhancing wider job and employability opportunities.

The project should benefit communities experiencing higher levels of deprivation or support under-represented or marginalised groups.

Funding can be used for costs directly related to creating or enhancing the project or community space (e.g. design and construction labour, equipment to facilitate the community benefits, furnishing and materials).

Further information on the TRU Community Fund can be found at [The TRU Community Fund | Neighbourly](#).

Is there anything the grants cannot cover?

Funding cannot be used for ongoing operational costs (e.g. staff salaries, utilities, rent or marketing).

When do applications open?

Applications will open on **Monday 28th September** and close on **Friday 9th October**. If the programme receives a large number of applications, it may be necessary to close the application window earlier than 9th October, so organisations are encouraged to apply as soon as applications open.

How does an organisation apply?

The distribution of funding is being managed on behalf of TRU by Neighbourly. Before applying, organisations will need to [make an account](#) on the online platform, Neighbourly (this takes approximately 5 minutes).

Once applications open, an organisation can then apply for the funding on the TRU campaign page, using this link: [TRU Community Fund 2026 Applications page](#).

What does the application process involve?

The following broad steps will be required to complete the TRU CF26 application process:

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1. Interested organisations need to sign up on the Neighbourly platform to undertake the initial vetting and eligibility check. This will take approximately 5 mins to complete and is a standard part of Neighbourly's onboarding.
2. All eligible organisations on Neighbourly's platform will receive notification that applications are open from Monday 28th September, unless registering after this period. The notification will direct organisations to the TRU CF26 homepage where applications can be started and submitted. The application questions will be visible for all organisations to review prior to the application window opening via [TRU Community Fund 2026 Applications page](#).
3. Once applications open, eligible organisations complete the application form that consists of qualifying questions, multiple choice and free text questions. This must occur within the application window.
4. Neighbourly will score each application and conduct an independent review on those that have met the threshold.
5. Organisations with applications that are provided the status of 'provisionally successful' will be informed and asked to undertake additional vetting if required.

Applicants will be asked questions broadly relating to:

- Project details - Project description, budget breakdown, whether the fund will fully or partially fund the project, and any other sources of funding.
- Theme: Northern Jobs - Will the project create any education, employment and/or training opportunities for local people, and are these related to the rail and construction industries? Examples include: upskilling opportunities, accredited courses, workshops, work experience, new jobs, careers information, advice and guidance, and mentoring.
- Theme: Supporting our communities - Has the organisation engaged with the community to identify the need? What are the project impacts and outcomes? Will the project engage directly with people facing or at a higher risk of long-term unemployment? Will there be volunteering opportunities for TRU employees?
- Theme: Enhanced Environment - Will the project help protect or enhance the local environment, and will sustainable practices be considered in the delivery of the project?

NOTE: Questions relating to '**Northern Jobs**' and **Supporting our communities**' will be more highly weighted in order to prioritise projects that support skills development, education or employment opportunities.

What makes a strong application?

Project criteria

Successful projects must demonstrate how they will:

- Create or enhance community-focused facilities within 5km of the Transpennine route or Shipley Traincare Centre. This could include outdoor or indoor places / spaces that benefit the local community.
- Support skills development, education or employment opportunities. This could include:
 - developing job skills,
 - tackling youth unemployment,

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- improving opportunities for people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), or groups at risk of becoming NEETs.
- Benefit communities experiencing higher levels of deprivation or support under-represented or marginalised groups.

The fund is also particularly interested in providing grant funding to projects that:

- Support skills, education or employment opportunities linked to the rail or construction industries.
- Improve local places and environments.
- Generate benefits for local businesses and the wider local community.
- Create volunteering opportunities for the wider TRU workforce.
- Demonstrate community consultation or co-design.
- Embed environmental sustainability and strong environmental practice.

What are examples of past projects that would meet the TRU Community Fund 2026 criteria?

Examples of successful projects recently funded include:

- **The Place (2024):** Created and furnished a dedicated space for educational mentoring, mental health support and community gardening activities for local young people.
- **Friends of Ravenshall (2025):** Currently developing a community petting farm and café, providing training and employment pathways for people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).
- **Junior Sports Hub (2025):** Improved an outdoor community garden while creating opportunities for young people to develop practical and employability skills.
- **Lord Deramore's School (2025):** Created inclusive learning and play areas for pupils with special educational needs.
- **Key Changes: Positive Mental Health Through Music Limited (2025):** Upgraded a mobile recording studio to help people experiencing mental ill health develop creative and music production skills.

Who is eligible to apply?

A group or organisation that has a clear social purpose can apply for the funding. This includes:

- Registered charities and CICs
- Community groups, centres and organisations
- Schools
- Not-for-profit nurseries and family centres

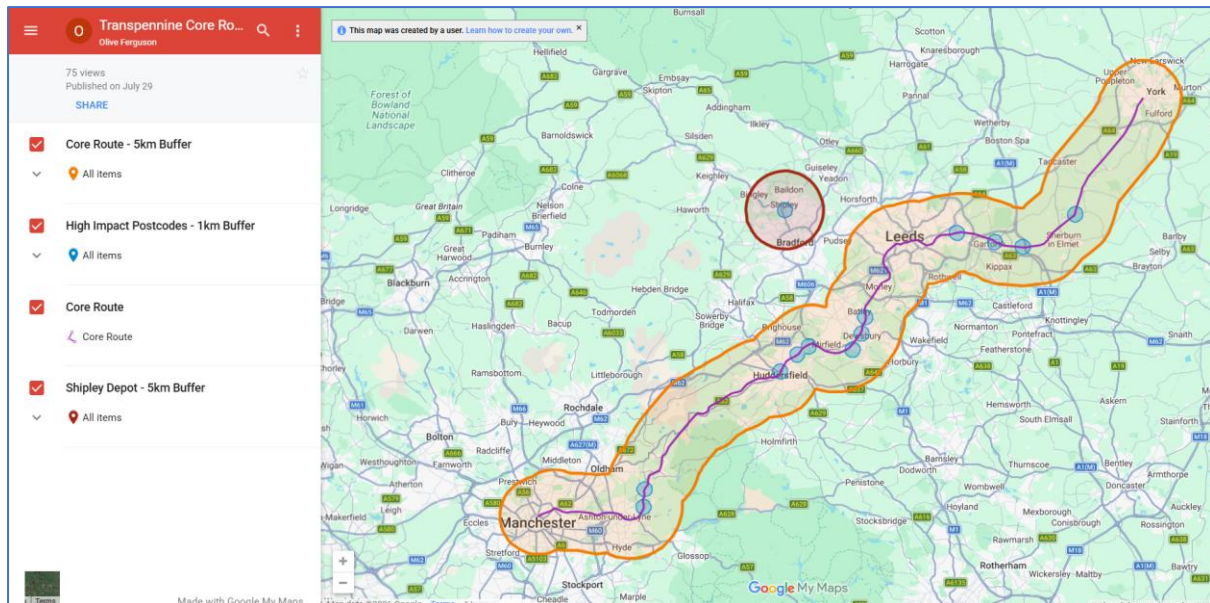
To be eligible for the funding, both the organisation and the proposed project must be within 5 kilometres of the Transpennine Route and within 5 kilometres of the Shipley Traincare Centre (a key TRU worksite). Projects within 'high impact' areas, where communities are most affected by TRU construction work, will be more strongly considered during the application process.

How does an organisation or project check if it is eligible?

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Applicants can check that they are within the 5-kilometre radius of the core route and Shipley Traincare Centre, and within the 1-kilometre radius of a 'high impact' area, using this [map](#). Wider eligibility criteria can also be on the campaign page [The TRU Community Fund | Neighbourly](#) and the [TRU Community Fund 2026 Applications page](#)

Potential applicants can enter their own address into the map and identify whether they fall into the 5-km zone for eligibility.



What are the TRU 'high impact' areas?

During the assessment process, additional consideration will be given to projects in communities most impacted by TRU construction activity. These areas are defined as locations within a one-kilometre radius of the postcodes listed below and can be identified on the [interactive map](#) by the smaller blue circles:

- LS15 8BZ (Cross Gates)
- LS25 1PW (Garforth)
- LS25 4EE (Micklefield)
- LS24 9GZ (Church Fenton)
- BD18 2BH (Shipley)
- WF17 5TA (Batley)
- WF13 1HF (Dewsbury)
- WF12 9EQ (Ravensthorpe)
- HD5 0RF (Heaton Lodge)
- HD2 1LX (Deighton)
- HD1 5BB (Huddersfield)
- OL5 9AN (Mossley)
- SK15 3BN (Stalybridge)

Who are Neighbourly?

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Neighbourly is managing the distribution of funding on behalf of TRU to ensure impartiality and good value for money. Neighbourly is an award-winning giving platform and a free tool for charities and community organisations. It helps businesses make a positive impact in their communities by donating volunteer time, money and surplus products to local causes, all in one place.

How can I learn more about the TRU Community Fund?

TRU will hold an online briefing session on Monday 21st September to present on the TRU Community Fund and answer any questions. Organisations can sign up to attend the session via [TRU Community Fund Online Briefing](#) page.

How will applications be selected for grant funding?

The fund is being independently managed on behalf of TRU by Neighbourly to ensure impartiality. Neighbourly operate the Neighbourly Foundation, who are a registered charity, operating as an experienced Community Investment Fund.

Neighbourly will score all applications against the TRU Community Fund criteria and review via an awards panel to select grants for projects based on project outcomes, as described in the application.

Where will funding be distributed?

The funding will be spread across the TRU Core Route and near the Shipley Traincare Centre. All successful applicants will deliver projects within 5 kilometres of these routes. This ensures that grants will be distributed across the TRU geography to support activities across the stations, towns and cities impacted by the TRU programme.

Is co-funding allowed as part of the TRU Community Fund?

Yes. A grant from the Community Fund can be used for all, or partial, funds of a project. If a project is going to be partially funded, the application will ask where the rest of the funding will come from (i.e. from a third party or from within your own organisation). Applicants will be able to disclose this when submitting an application.

The £5,000 uplift can also be applied for if the project has not secured all co-funding at the point of application.

Can an organisation apply for the 2026 TRU Community Fund, if they received funding in 2024 or 2025?

Yes. Organisations that were previously successful in the TRU Community Fund 2024 and 2025 can re-apply for this year's funding.

When will organisations learn about the outcomes of their application?

Neighbourly expect to inform organisations about whether they have been 'provisionally successful' by the **first week of November**; however, this date may vary based upon the quantity and quality of applications.

If an organisation is successful, when will they receive the funding?

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Grant funding is expected to be paid to successful applicants **between late November and the middle of January**, subject to the completion of the verification process; however, this date may vary based upon the quantity and quality of applications.

Who should an organisation or project contact if they have any further questions about the TRU Community Fund?

Any questions about the TRU Community Fund should be directed to Neighbourly via the [Neighbourly FAQs page](#) also provides more information about creating an account with Neighbourly and the process for submitting an application online. Organisations will be able to contact Neighbourly from the FAQ page.

Will there be more funding in the future?

Plans are in place to deliver the programme and funding annually over the lifetime of the Transpennine Route Upgrade, and so a fourth round of funding is in preparation for 2027. The TRU Community Fund is reviewed following the completion of each annual programme in order to assess how effective it has been and how it can be improved for the communities and beneficiaries, so changes to how the programme is delivered may be introduced. More information will be released on this in due course.
